

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A process for transferring a photo image to a medium comprising the steps of:

converting a photo image into an electronic format;

editing said photo image via a first electronic editor;

converting said photo image via a second electronic editor into a format compatible with a computer aided laser system;

importing said photo image into a third electronic editor to create a desired cut line;

cutting the medium along the desired cut line via said computer aided laser system; and

etching said photo image to ~~a~~ the medium via said computer aided laser system.

2. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein said medium is a wood.

3. (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein said wood is in the form of a picture frame.

4. (Currently amended) The process of claim 3, wherein said picture frame has a protruding portion on which the photo image is etched, said protruding portion being defined by said step of cutting the medium along the desired cut line.

5. (Currently amended) The process of claim 4, wherein said protruding portion overlaps at least a portion of the a photograph display area associated with said picture frame.

6. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein said photo image is converted into electronic format by scanning said photo image into a computer.

7. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein said first electronic editor enables a user to adjust the contrast, brightness and/or intensity of said photo image as appropriate to improve the quality thereof.

8. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein during said editing step said photo image is converted into an 8-bit grayscale.

9. (Original) The process of claim 8, wherein said second electronic editor converts said grayscale to a format compatible with said computer aided laser system.

10. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein said third electronic editor enables a user to add text to said photo image.

11. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein said cut line coincides with features reflected in said photo image.

12. (Currently amended) A process for etching a medium comprising the steps of:

providing a computer aided laser system;

converting a photo image into an electronic format compatible with said computer aided laser system;

modifying said photo image via image editing software to obtain a desired effect;

cutting the medium along an outline of said photo image via said computer aided laser system; and

writing said photo image to a the medium via said computer aided laser system.

13. (Original) The process of claim 12, wherein said medium is a wood.

14. (Original) The process of claim 13, wherein said wood is in the form of a picture frame.

15. (Currently amended) The process of claim 14, wherein the step of cutting the medium along an outline of said photo image defines said picture frame has a protruding portion of said picture frame on which the photo image is etched.

16. (Currently amended) The process of claim 15, wherein said protruding portion overlaps at least a portion of the a photograph display area associated with said picture frame.

17. (Original) The process of claim 12, wherein said third electronic editor enables a user to add text to said photo image.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A picture frame, comprising:

an outer border having one or more elements forming a picture display area for displaying a picture, said outer border surrounding said picture display area; and

an a protruding portion associated with one or more of said elements of said outer border, said protruding portion overlapping at least a portion of said picture display area,

wherein said protruding portion has an image etched thereon ~~via the method of claim 12~~, said image being substantially similar to the picture in said picture display area, and

wherein said protruding portion has an outline  
substantially similar to a contour of the picture.

20. (Original) The picture frame of claim 19, wherein said etched image is personalized to the preferences of a consumer.